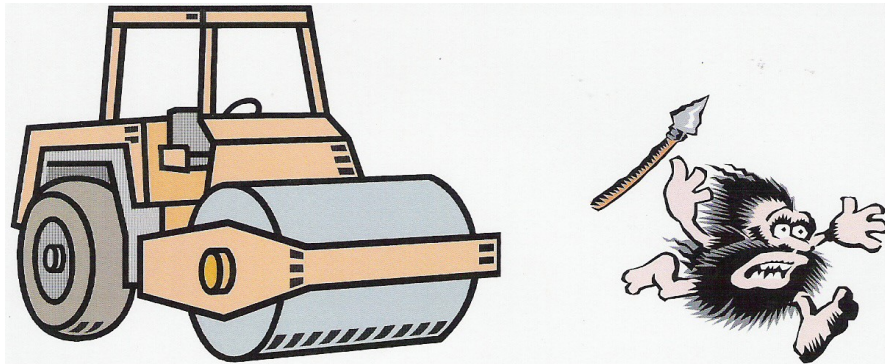


HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATIONS



More than 100 people are killed and many others more are injured every year by heavy equipment on construction sites or while roads are being maintained by backhoes/excavators, cranes, loaders, bulldozers and tractors.

OSHA states , “An employer shall permit only those employees qualified by training or experience to operate equipment or machinery”.

CAUSES OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT DEATHS

- ⊗ Struck by equipment usually when backing
- ⊗ Carelessness by the operator or the person around the equipment
 - ⊗ Struck by boom or bucket
 - ⊗ Riding as a passenger on the equipment
- ⊗ Equipment rolls while on a slope or being loaded or unloaded from a trailer
 - ⊗ Breaks not set, equipment left in gear, wheel chocks not used, and equipment and/or controls not properly used.

SAFETY TIPS FOR SAFE OPERATION

>>>>Supervisors<<<<

- ⊗ ⊗ Allow only trained and experienced operators to operate heavy equipment
- ⊗ Be sure operators are trained by qualified persons experienced on type and model to be used
 - ⊗ Make operator's manual available to operators
- ⊗ Use the one-call system for locating underground utility lines before excavating
- ⊗ Make sure all safety features are working on heavy equipment
 - ⊗ Provide training on hand signals
 - ⊗ Provide trained spotters to alert operators of hazards
- ⊗ Ensure operators and ground crew wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)

>>>>Employees<<<<

- ⊗ Inspect the heavy equipment's safety features, and controls daily before beginning work
 - ⊗ Only use the heavy equipment for its intended purpose, never exceed the manufactures recommendations
- ⊗ Always follow required shutdown or lockout/tagout procedures before performing any work around the heavy equipment
- ⊗ Do not back-up unless you are sure that no one is behind you
- ⊗ Use OSHA required PPE while operating heavy equipment (hard hat, hearing protection, and safety eyewear; reflective vests for ground crew)
 - ⊗ Wear seat belts when operating heavy equipment
 - ⊗ Never allow passengers on heavy equipment
- ⊗ Do not depend on backup alarms, they are not always heard
- ⊗ Do not use equipment if the horn or back-up alarm is not working
 - ⊗ Do not speed; be extra careful around other traffic, hills, obstacles, curves, and in inclement weather
- ⊗ Keep walking/working surfaces clear of grease, fluids and mud
 - ⊗ Use a 3 points of contact when ascending or descending